

Activity Type

Speaking activity, group work

Language Focus

Past simple affirmative sentences

Aim

To make true past simple affirmative sentences using time expressions and verbs.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of four and cut the cards out as indicated. Separate the cards into two piles (time expression cards and verb cards).

Level

Elementary

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is a challenging game to help students practice past simple affirmative sentences and sentence formation.

Procedure

Split the class into groups of four.

Explain that the students are going to practice making true past simple affirmative sentences about themselves.

Give each group a set of time expression cards and verb cards. Have the students shuffle the two sets separately.

Tell the groups to put the time expression cards face down in a pile on the desk and deal out the verb cards equally. Each player should have six verb cards.

Players take it in turns to turn over a time expression card from the pile and then make a true past simple affirmative sentence using one of the verbs on their cards and the time expression.

If the player constructs a believable past simple sentence, which is agreed on by the other students to be true, the player may discard the verb card.

If the other students think the sentence can't be true, they challenge the player, and he or she has to keep the verb card.

Students can also challenge the player if the sentence is grammatically incorrect or the wrong verb form is used, in which case the player also has to keep the card.

The aim of the game is to be the first player to get rid of all their verb cards.

If all the time expression cards get used up, they can be turned over and used again.

The game is quite easy at first because there is a choice of verbs, but it becomes more challenging to make a meaningful sentence as the game progresses.

Time expression cards


an hour ago	this morning	yesterday	last night
last week	two weeks ago	last year	two days ago
last Saturday	last Sunday	in 2013	a week ago
when I was six	yesterday afternoon	when I was ten	yesterday evening
five years ago	last summer	a month ago	in 2012
last winter	a long time ago	ten years ago	last month

Verb cards


be	have	go	take
get	do	leave	start
see	buy	live	finish
listen to	watch	meet	learn
choose	feel	keep	wear
think	clean	know	like